

Environmental Policy and Action Plan

The AONB's core purpose is environmental (to conserve and enhance natural beauty), and while its work is focussed on the landscape it is important that this is carried out in a manner which is sustainable in relation to other environmental aspects such as energy and use of resources. An explicit subsidiary purpose of the AONB is to promote sustainable development. Action locally to conserve the landscape may be pointless in the long term if wider environmental issues such as global warming are not addressed, and the Partnership must set its work in this context, and both play its own part and encourage others to do so. The Partnership will pursue sustainability through two principal means – through managing its own resources and through influencing others.

Managing our own resources

The resources the AONB Partnership controls are modest – a small rented office, two cars, and limited procurement of materials. The finances and property of the Partnership are held by Shropshire County Council as the host authority, which has its own corporate sustainability policy.

The AONB Partnership undertakes to:

- Manage its own resources to minimise environmental impact.
- Measure and monitor key impacts in order to maintain focus on more important issues and in particular to give primacy to energy and carbon emissions.
- Reduce CO₂ emissions from its direct activities by 25% by 2015 from a baseline figure established in 2006.
- Publicise the actions it is taking in order to encourage others.

An audit of current measures and identified actions for managing our own resources is shown below. This will be updated and refined as further action is taken and as more information is available.

Influencing others

Given the way the AONB Partnership works, it has the greatest capacity to support sustainability through influencing others.

The AONB Partnership undertakes to:

- Include energy and broader sustainability issues in its work, and explain how these relate to the primary landscape conservation purpose of the AONB.
- Promote and support policies and strategies affecting the AONB which support sustainability, and in particular the reduction of CO₂ emissions.
- Use its influence through distribution of grants, especially the Sustainable Development Fund, to support the achievement of real reductions in environmental impact in the area. This may be achieved by requiring applicants to undertake environmental auditing and carbon footprinting of their activities.

- Encourage and support action by individuals and organisations in the community in and around the AONB to reduce CO₂ emissions, especially through energy efficiency and the appropriate development of renewable energy.

Environmental Audit of AONB Partnership direct activity and resources

	Current measures	Action needed
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New double glazed windows along side wall 2005. • Some control of heating with radiator stop valves. • Fluorescent lights fitted throughout office. • All lights and electrical appliances switched off at night. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with landlord gaining greater control over heating, e.g. through thermostat, and possible renewal of old, unreliable (inefficient?) heating system. • Discuss with landlord use of green energy tariff at office. • Improve draughtproofing – external doors and repair cracked windows. • Monitor energy use (gas and electricity) and seek to reduce.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of office cars operates on LPG, other on diesel. • Nominated person responsible for ensuring cars are serviced and well maintained. • Office located near to railway station and bus routes. • Some staff car share to work. • Cycle storage available. • Occasional home working supported. • Public transport used for longer journeys where possible. • Car sharing with people from other organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start to use biodiesel in diesel car where possible. • Promote car sharing for Partnership meetings by providing contact information. • Plan meeting locations and times to minimise travel. • Provide information on public transport for those attending meetings. • Monitor total work miles and seek to reduce travel per head. • Investigate provision of shower to encourage cycling to work.
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling of office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard and plastic bottles/glass from kitchen. • Kitchen waste composted. • Stationery supplies re-used where possible. 	
Resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycled printer/copier paper used. • Printing/copying done double sided whenever possible. • Environmentally friendly paper and inks used for printed publications. • Local contractors and suppliers used where possible. • Local or fair trade catering supplies used where possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor printer/copier use and seek to reduce paper consumption per head. • Make greater use of 'fast' (low ink) settings on printers. • Repair leaking toilet cistern and consider installing urinal to reduce water use. • Request cleaning contractor to use environmentally friendly cleaning products.

Policy approved 7 Feb 2006. Audit and action plan last amended Feb 2006.